

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

RYAN FARACE,

Defendant

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CRIMINAL NO. CCB-21-294

PRELIMINARY ORDER OF FORFEITURE

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2021, a federal grand jury sitting in the District of Maryland returned an Indictment charging Ryan Farace (the “Defendant”) with conspiracy to commit money laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) (Count One); and

WHEREAS, the Indictment also included a forfeiture allegation which provided notice that the United States intended to seek the forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1) and (b)(1) and 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), upon conviction of the Defendant of the offense alleged in Count One of the Indictment; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2022, the Defendant pled guilty to the offense alleged in Count One of the Indictment; and

WHEREAS, as part of his guilty plea, the Defendant agreed to forfeit to the United States all right, title, and interest in the following items that the Defendant agreed constitute money, property, and/or assets derived from or obtained by the Defendant as a result of, used to facilitate the commission of, or involved in, the Defendant’s offense:

- (1) 2,874.904256 bitcoin seized on or about February 10, 2021 (21-DEA-674483);

- (2) 58.742155166 bitcoin seized on or about May 11, 20021 (21-DEA-678181);

(collectively, the “Subject Property”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1) and Rule 32.2(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States is now entitled to a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture with respect to the Subject Property;

ACCORDINGLY, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that:

1. The United States’ Motion for a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture is GRANTED.
2. The Court finds, pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, that the United States has established the requisite nexus between the Subject Property and the offense to which the Defendant pled guilty.
3. Accordingly, all of Defendant’s interests in the Subject Property are hereby forfeited to the United States for disposition pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1).
4. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States is hereby authorized to seize the Subject Property and maintain it in its secure custody and control.
5. The United States is authorized to conduct any discovery that might be necessary to identify, locate, or dispose of forfeited property, and to resolve any third-party petition, pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(3), (c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and 21 U.S.C. § 853(m).
6. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1), the United States shall publish, for thirty (30) consecutive calendar days on the government forfeiture website www.forfeiture.gov, notice of the Preliminary Order of Forfeiture and notice of the United States’ intent to dispose of the Subject Property.

7. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1), the United States shall give, to the extent practicable, direct written notice to any person known to have alleged an interest in the Subject Property to be forfeited.

8. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(2) and (3), the notice referred to above shall state: (a) that any person, other than the Defendant, asserting a legal interest in the Subject Property, shall, within sixty (60) days after the first day of publication on the government forfeiture website or within thirty (30) days after receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier, file a petition with the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, requesting a hearing to adjudicate the validity of his or her interest in the Subject Property; and (b) that the petition shall be signed by the petitioner under the penalty of perjury and shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the Subject Property, the time and circumstances of the petitioner's acquisition of the right, title, or interest in the Subject Property, any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim, and the relief sought.

9. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(7), following the Court's disposition of all petitions filed under 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(6), or if no such petitions are filed following the expiration of the period provided in 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(2) for the filing of such petitions, the United States shall have clear title to the Subject Property.

10. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(4) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture will become final as to the Defendant at the time of his sentencing, will be part of the Defendant's criminal sentence, and will be included in the criminal judgment entered by this Court against him.

11. Upon adjudication of all third party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1) and Rule 32.2(c) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, in which all interests will be addressed.

12. The Court shall retain jurisdiction in this case for the purpose of enforcing this Order, and pursuant to Rule 32.2(e)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall amend this Order, or enter other orders as necessary, to forfeit additional specific property when identified.

Date

The Honorable Catherine C. Blake
United States District Judge